

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 /084 W

-----023318 011452Z /43

R 011203Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6995

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 4795

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, US, XF, EEC

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY STATEMENT ON THE  
MIDDLE EAST

REFS: (A) STATE 143420, (B) LONDON 10804

1. THE OFFICIAL ISRAELI REACTON TO THE STATEMENT ON  
THE MIDDLE EAST ISSUED ON JUNE 29 BY THEEUROPEAN  
COUNCIL HAS BEEN MUTED. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED  
NOT TO ISSUE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF REACTION AND,  
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HAS REACHED THAT DECISION  
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BECAUSE EUROPE HAS NO OPERATIVE ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST  
PEACE EFFORTS. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE MFA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL AND THE BRITISH EMBASSY DCM THAT  
NO COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN CALLED IN BY  
THE MFA FOR AN OFFICIAL DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH THE  
STATEMENT MAY BE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING NEXT  
WEEK BETWEEN COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS AND FOREIGN

MINISTER DAYAN. THEY ALSO TOLD US THAT MFA  
OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE  
STATEMENT IN THEIR PRIVATE COMMENTS.

2. MEDIA REACTION ON THE OTHER HADN HAS BEEN  
VERY CRITICAL. MOST EDITORIAL COMMENT PROFESSES  
TO SEE A U.S. ROLE. DAVAR COMMENTED ON JUNE 30  
THAT THE STATEMENT "...WAS UNDOUBTEDLY COMPOSED  
UNDER AMERICAN INSPIRATION AND WITH PRIOR  
COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES." SEVERAL  
EDITORIALS ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE  
DUTCH AND THE GERMANS, WHO HAD BEEN FIRM IN  
THEIR OPPOSITION TO SUCH A STATEMENT, HAD GIVEN  
IN TO PRESSURE. THE FRENCH ARE SEEN AS THE  
CHIEF CULPRIT AMONG THE NINE IN PRESSING FOR THE  
STATEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, A HAARETZ EDITORIAL  
ON JULY 1 SAID:

3. "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS MOVE WAS  
INITIATED BY PARIS, WHERE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE  
FOR THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS TO TURN THE  
EEC INSTITUTIONS INTO A TOOL FOR PROMOTING PARIS'  
NATIONAL POLICY--WHICH HAS BEEN PRO-ARAB THESE  
THEN YEARS OR MORE. IT MUST, HOWEVER, BE GREATLY  
REGRETTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS WESTERN  
GERMANY AND HOLLAND, WHICH UNTIL RECENTLY FELT  
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IT INCUMBENT UPON THEMSELVES TO STEM THE FRENCH  
PUSH, HAVE NOW GIVEN UP THEIR STAND--A POSITION  
THEY HAD CONSIDERED NOT ONLY SENSIBLE BUT ALSO  
JUST, UNTIL A FEW DAYS, OR WEEKS, AGO. THE MAIN  
EXPLANATION FOR THIS CHANGE ON THEIR PART IS  
APPARENTLY TO BE FOUND IN THE INFLUENCE OF THE  
UNITED STATES, WHO HAVE NOW ALLIED THEMSELVES  
WITH THE FRENCH PRESSURE."

4. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THE INTERPLAY  
BETWEEN THIS STATEMENT AND THE CURRENT STATE  
OF FRENCH/ISRAELI RELATIONS. IT WILL BE  
RECALLED THAT FRANCE WAS THE ONLY THIRD COUNTRY,  
OTHER THAN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH  
WAS MENTIONED BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN HIS  
SPEECH TO THE KNESSET SETTING OUT HIS GOVERNMENT'S  
POLICY. THERE WAS ALSO MENTION IN THE PRESS ABOUT THAT TIME  
OF A POSSIBLE VISIT BY BEGIN TO FRANCE. THE DIRECTOR  
GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, DR. ELIAHU  
BEN-ELISSAR, RECENTLY TRAVELED TO PARIS TO  
EXPLAIN THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. FRENCH  
AMBASSADOR HERLY HAS TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE

THAT BEN-ELISSAR HAD TOLD HIM HE WOULD TRY TO  
PIN DOWN THE BEGIN VISIT WHILE HE WAS IN PARIS  
BUT REPORTED TO HERLY ON HIS RETURN THAT HE HAD  
BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS. THE FRENCH  
AMBASSADOR THEN CABLED PARIS FOR INSTRUCTIONS  
REGARDING A POSSIBLE BEGIN VISIT AND WAS TOLD  
IN RESPONSE THAT HE SHOULD NOT MENTION THE  
SUBJECT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, IS, US, XF, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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